

Mr. PYMMES  
SPEECH  
IN  
ANSWER TO  
THOMAS  
LORD STRAFFORDS  
Defence at the Barre, the  
13. of APRILL, 1641.



Printed for JOHN ASTON, 1641.

MR. TYNMES

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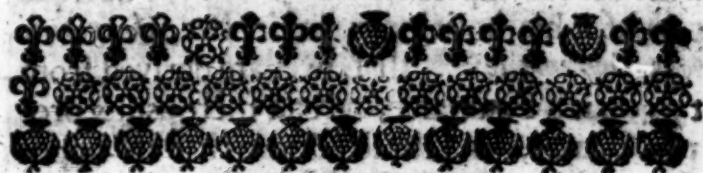
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Mr. Pym's  
**SPEECH**

13. April, 1641.

MY LORDS:

**T**Here hath been much time spent to prove our charge, and your Lordships have heard my Lord *Straffords* defence with as much patience: you have also heard our evidences summed up, whereby wee have proved, that he hath by traiterous words, counsels, and actions, trayterously endeavoured to subvert the fundamentall Lawes of *England* and *Ireland*, and instead thereof to introduce an arbitrary, & tyrannicall forme of government against Law, this, this, my Lords, is that payson's Arrow, that hath tainted his blood, this is that Cup of deadly wine, that hath intoxicated him.

My Lords, it comes now to my share, to shew you how mischievous an act of Treason

it is by that law, that hee hath appealed unto, which is the supream Law, viz. Publique good, for his position was this, hat *salus populi* was *suprema lex*, all Lawes are derived from this, as it's Fontaine, and end there as it's proper Center, and those actions that are opposite to this, are against all Law.

First, my Lords, it is such an offence, as comprehends all offences, such a Treason, as comprehends all Treasons: the earth my Lords, is a Seminary of all flowers; so this is a Seminary of all offences: My Lords, this puts a difference betwixt good and evill; take away the Law my Lords, and Nature becomes a law to it selfe: as Pride will be a law, Lust will be a law, Rapine a law, Treason a law; which lawes have ruled in Ireland ever since my Lord came thither, take away the Kings protection from the people, and you take away the peoples allegiance to the King, Prerogative is the bond of liberty, and my Lords, they must not contest one against another, & if you take away this, you take away your goods, lives, and liberties: My Lords, hee saith that Ireland was a conquered Nation; why, were not all Nations conquered, England, Wales, &c. the next is this, that it is a thing full of danger to the Kings Person and Crowne, it nourisheth dissention and tumults in a people, if you consider the Histories of Nations, under arbitrary govern-



government, you shall find them full of cruelty and bloody Massacres: if you please to peruse our *English* Histories, you shall find that when Arbitrary government was set up, how many Kings fell by cruell and bloody hands, which is fearefull to relate.

*My Lords*, It is dangerous to the King, First in respect of his honour. Secondly, in respect of his profit. Thirdly, in respect of his greatness, yet all these have beene put upon the face of these reasons as so many Vizars. Can it be *my Lords* for the Kings honour to have his Ministers lay all the fault on the King, to kill, to imprison, to use Rapine, to leavy warre against his people, and to ruine the State. And then all these dishonourable acts to be laid on the King, is this for the King? Secondly, It is contrary to his profit, for if there be not an affectionate supply from the people, to the King, hee can never grow in his Revenue.

Nay, *my Lords*, this is the Kings most certaine Revenue, that issues from the affections of his people: for other Revenues, as land, and the like, they are subject to many Inconveniencies, to many substractions and Pensions, but this is free and wholly to himselfe these 14. yeares past, since there hath beene an unhappie cessation of Parliamentary proceedings, the King hath had lesse revenue, and it hath done him lesse good,  
 nay

nay, there hath bin more wanting to the King,  
 then many yeares before. Thirdly, it is unpro-  
 fitable, and that is worse; for the King hath  
 lost by it, for it hath cost the King these two  
 yeares, more then it cost Queene Elizabeth in  
 all her *warres in Ireland and Spain*, yea, I feare  
 more then is to be repaired in an Age. Third-  
 ly, in point of greatnesse: the World is a so-  
 ciety of Kingdomes, and it is not enough for a  
 King to be great at home, but to be equall with  
 his fellow Princes abroad: Nay to bee above  
 them in Honour and Majesty, in goodnesse and  
 Glory, But my Lords, these counsels of late,  
 that have bin given his Majesty, had bin enough  
 to have rendred him contemptible to his Ene-  
 mies, uselesse to his distressed friends, and, had  
 they not beene prevented in time, would have  
 made him incapable of any designe, both at  
 home and abroad. A fourth consideration is  
 this, My Lords, it is destructive to wealth and  
 valour: it corrupts our peace, and in peace  
 makes us the Malignity of warre; and for  
 wealth, who will venture his goods, his life, his  
 liberry in the way of trading, and Commerce,  
 when hee knowes not upon the returne of it,  
 whether it be his owne or no?

Nay my Lords, it imbaseth the spirits, & va-  
 lour of a Nation, when they must stand in feare  
 of Pilloring, Scaffolding, and the like punish-  
 ments. It

It makes men to be of base spirits: Now, *my Lords*, to imbase the Kings coyne, if it be but 6. pence or 12. pence 'tis treason, & a man must dye for it, what is it then to imbase our spirits, *my Lords*, it is a matter of great importance. Fifthly, it doth disable the King and makes him unfit to deale with forraigne enemies, for every one thinks to slip his neck out of the collar when he shall be forced to it. A sixth consideration is, that it is against the Covenant betwixt the King & his people. Before, *my Lords*, I spake of a legall Oath, but now I speake of a personall, for wee sweare our alleageance to him, and he the maintenance of our lawes to us he is our husband and we his wife, he our Father and we his Children, he is to maintaine our liberties, and we his dignity and our owne duties, and, *my Lord*: Iustice *Thorpe* was condemned and executed for breaking the Kings Oath. *My Lords*, he brake not his owne Oath, nor did the King breake his oath, and yet for violating that oath, the King had taken to his Subjects he suffered.

Ah! *My Lords*, what an unfortunate man then is the prisoner at the Barre, that hath in all his Counsell, in his words, in all his actions broken the Kings Oath, and as much as in him lay, violently perswaded the King to countenance him in all his actions. A seventh consideration is this, *my Lords*, it is against the end of government, for the end of government is to

preserve men in their estates, lives, and liberties: but an arbitrary government destroyes all these: the end of government is to advance vertue and goodnesse and to punish vice, but this cherisheth all disorder.

Now, *my Lords*, I come to shew the vanity of his excuses that he hath made for himselfe. The first is the liberty of giving counsell being a Counsellour. True *my Lords*, he hath this liberty, but it is bounded within it's Limits, and it must be such a Counsell as must stand with the dignity of his sacred Majesty and the prosperity and weale of his Subjects, for if Counsell be bad it poysons the consciences of Princes, it infects their Eares: for all government proceeds from the Prince, as from a fountaine: now if the Fountaine be poysoned how can the streames be free? A second shift is, that he hopes that your *Lordships* will be carefull to secure your posterity and not to admitt of this as Treason. *My Lords*, I know your *Lordships* will be carefull to secure your posterity, but by your vertues not your vices. The third excuse is the goodnesse of his intentions. Truly *my Lords*, good & evill lye close together, not easily to be discerned, if they be naturall corruptions, but for Murders, Adulteries, Rapines, and Treasons, these are so monstrous that they may easily be distinguished, I and cannot be perswaded that he ever intended well, that acted so ill. The fourth is the Kings necessities.

*My*



*My Lords, this necessity came from his owne Counsell. A fifth excuse is, That it was for the maintenance of the Kings power. My Lords, it hath beene declared to you, That the Kings power doth not extend to any thing against Law, by which he hath sworne to rule us, and to maintaine our liberties and priviledges for us, and this hath beene declared by Parliaments, and also will appeare in the case of right and Ship-money. The sixt is, he saith he advised the King to doe it with moderation and reparation for this.*

*A seventh is, that no horrid facts did follow his Counsell, truely my Lords, we thanke God, his sacred Majesty and his wise Counsell for that, or else God knowes what fearefull things had befallen us, nor are we free from it as yet. To conclude. Now my Lords give me leave to intreat you to consider the reasons ordinarily praftised: when the act is done, they cease: as in killing that noble King of France, and the severall plots against Queene Elizabeth, but this Treason of my Lord of Strafford is a standing Treason, which when it had beene done, it had bin permanent from generation to generation. But now, my Lords, the law which he would have overthrowne must now be his Judge, and he is to be judged by Law, and that law will have marke enough upō it to describe, for it is a law against such as breake the fundamentall lawes of the Kingdome: and, my Lords, give me leave*

to informe you that under favor, that this is not  
 to make a new way for blood nor is the crime  
 of Treson in my Lord of *strafford* the lesse, be-  
 cause none would venter upon such a horrid  
 Treason in 14. yeares. But my Lords, for the  
 making of our charge good by law, as we have  
 fully proved by Testimony, we must re-  
 sort to Counsell with the house of  
 Commons, and trust to your  
 Lordships Justice.

FINIS.